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LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/934,936
Filed: August 22, 2001
Our Ref.: FIN0001-01

Dear Commissioner:

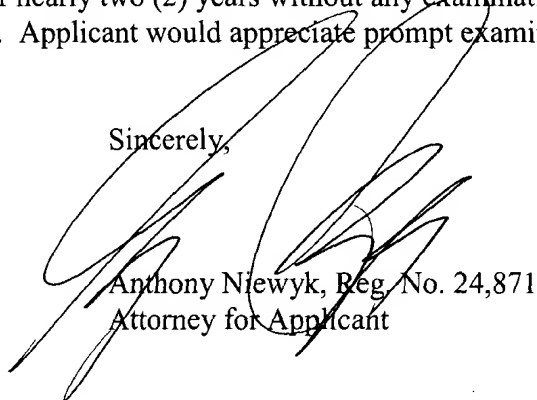
The above-referenced patent application was filed on August 22, 2003. A Status Inquiry Letter was mailed on April 8, 2003, to which a response was received from the U.S. Patent Office indicating that the projected examination date would be 0 – 3 months from April 25, 2003.

I therefore expected examination to have been completed by July 25, 2003.

On July 31, 2003, my assistant telephoned Group 1700 of the U.S. Patent Office, and was informed that the application had not yet been assigned to an examiner, and that the projected examination would be in 0 – 3 months from July 31, 2003, namely by October 31, 2003.

This case has been on file for nearly two (2) years without any examination and without being assigned to a patent examiner. Applicant would appreciate prompt examination of the application.

Sincerely,



Anthony Niewyk, Reg. No. 24,871
Attorney for Applicant

AN/mld/299229